

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached three sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-7. These three sheets, which include Fig. 1-7, replace the original sheets. Fig. 2 now includes element 156 which was previously omitted.

Attachment: Three Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the section 112 objection and to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 7 has been so rewritten as new claim 13 and therefore should be allowable.

Claim 2 has been amended to include "the hollow grip" and to clarify the claimed subject matter and now complies with section 112 (for example, "said first compartment joined" has been deleted).

Claim 4 has been amended to delete the reference to a hinge. The lids of the containers may be attached to the container in a number of conventional ways.

Claims 1-6 were rejected pursuant to 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams. Applicant submits that his invention as now claimed is not disclosed or suggested by Williams. Williams discloses a portable pet-feeding container "which can be easily transported while traveling with the pet" while Applicant has disclosed a dog leash with multiple storage containers. Williams discloses food and water dishes for pets which are connected with a hinge pin so that the dishes 1a and 1b may be folded into each other and carried on shoulder harness 80 as shown in Figure 8B. The portable feeding containers may be attached to a conventional dog leash as shown in Figure 6A.

In contrast, Applicant's invention is for use with a retractable and non-retractable leash and has storage containers suitable for use to provide the pet with food and water, but also to carry the pet owner's personal effects. Williams does not provide or suggest storage for the owner's personal effects, e.g. keys. The first and second compartments are also removable from the leash assembly unlike the reservoirs in Williams. The storage tube in Williams cannot accommodate keys or other personal effects and does not attempt or suggest providing that feature. Further, Applicant's invention is designed to function both with a retractable leash as well as to attached to a conventional leash. Amended claims 1 and 2 require a leash retainer mechanism and at least one container releasably attached to the housing.

Applicant's invention has the beauty of design simplicity compared to Williams and is much easier and less expensive to manufacture. Williams requires a skirt surrounding the food

and water reservoirs and is heavier and more bulky such that a shoulder harness 80 and a belt 82 is provided to accommodate its weight. Although Williams mentions attaching a dog leash, it is so cumbersome to use the Williams design with a dog leash that the user will be unlikely to use it with the leash.

In summary, none of the prior art discloses or suggests the unique features of Applicant's invention which provide a leash with removable storage containers which are also designed to hold food and water. As amended, claims 1 and 2 are patentable, claims 3-6 which depend on claims 1 and 2 should likewise be patentable.

Applicant respectfully request that Claims 1-6 as amended and claim 13 be allowed or that the Examiner conduct a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney.

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Respectfully Submitted:



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